

## **Oral Health of North Dakota's Youth 1999 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results**



The fourth biennial Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted during the spring of 1999 shows that the oral health of North Dakota's children needs improvement. Weighted data were obtained from 1,666 seventh and eighth grade students and 1,823 students in grades nine through 12. Seventh and eighth grade students were asked about dental visits, while students in grades nine through 12 were asked about dental visits, daily brushing habits, cavities in their permanent teeth, and use of mouthguards during contact sports.

### **Daily Brushing**

- While 77.5 percent of students brushed their teeth daily, nearly one-fourth (22.5%) did not.
- Female students (87.1%) were more likely to brush daily than were male students (68.1%).
- Only 71.7 percent of students in grade nine reported brushing daily while 80.6 percent of 12th grade students brushed daily.

### **Dental Visits**

- While 76.6 percent of students in grades nine through 12 visited the dentist within the past year, 13.4 percent had not.
- Two percent of these students have never visited the dentist.
- Females (80.0%) were more likely to visit the dentist in the past year than were males (73.4%).
- A slightly higher percentage of students (81.9%) in grades seven and eight have visited the dentist in the past year.

### **Cavities in Permanent Teeth**

- More than half (56.5%) of students reported one or more cavities in their permanent teeth.
- One-third (33.6%) of students reported no cavities.
- Ten percent of students were not sure if they have cavities or have not visited the dentist.

### **Use of Mouthguards in Sports**

- Of the students who participated in contact sports, more than two-thirds (69.1%) never or rarely wore mouthguards.
- Only 12 percent of students reported always wearing mouthguards and 18.8 percent sometimes or most of the time wore mouthguards.

